

The most noteworthy example of how this case was used to attempt to discredit DIA's handling of PW sighting reports and sources was a video tape made by Mr. SC and Mrs. Anh following the DIA interviews in Washington, D.C. The video tape depicted an "interview" of SC by Mrs. Anh concerning SC discussions with DIA. According to SC, the tape was intended for broadcast on national TV. In one instance the taped "interview" was shown on a TV talk show in Seattle, WA, with introductory comments that portrayed DIA personnel as intimidating interrogators who held SC in virtual imprisonment while they grilled him until he passed out from exhaustion. Again, the charges are spurious in the extreme, but they occasionally find a receptive audience among the uninformed.

It should be noted that the number of cases in which DIA has been criticized is very small, but in each case the source was introduced directly or indirectly through Mrs. Anh, with Mrs. Anh playing a prominent role in promoting the source, his information, and his criticism of DIA. Mrs. Anh portrays herself as an anti-communist activist in the refugee community acting out of purely altruistic compassion for our missing American servicemen and their families. She was an anti-war activist on U.S. college campuses during the 1960s, went back to Vietnam during the early 1970s, returned to the U.S. in 1975 and has been a self-styled anti-communist emigre resistance activist since. She attached herself to the U.S. PW issue circa 1977. Most of the sources she has introduced and promoted provided unsubstantiated or false information concerning U.S. PWs and other topics. Many of those sources are former communist officials or intelligence agents who profess to be converts to the anti-communist resistance. Frequently they state their motive for offering information concerning U.S. PWs/MIAs is the hope that the U.S. Government will respond by offering support for their alleged resistance activities. Whatever their motives might be, the practical effect of their unfounded information and criticisms is on the one hand to discredit any legitimate emigre resistance interests and on the other hand to create controversy about the U.S. PW/MIA issue that could develop the type of domestic divisiveness that served Hanoi so well during the war.

#### SUMMARY:

There is a body of credible information from reliable sources that Messers SC/SS did not see American prisoners of war at Quyet Tien prison. While there is no concrete evidence that either of these sources were encouraged or directed by SRV intelligence services to present this story to U.S. officials, the available information concerning the persons who were involved in the story is such that that possibility cannot be confidently ruled out.

#### DATE OF EVALUATION:

Le Thi Anh

Source

DATA

November 6, 1985

Mr. George Brooks  
Chairman of the Board  
The National League of Families  
Of POW'S & MIA'S in S.E.A.

DATA

Dear George:

The publication of these articles describing the way Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko has been handled by CIA debriefers prompts me to write to you. His complaints, his discontinuation of cooperation, the way he has been treated are very reminiscent of the way refugees who came forward with information about live prisoners have been handled by DIA. After a certain period of being debriefed by the DIA, many discontinued cooperation. I can hardly find a refugee who would tell me that he was pleased with the way the debriefers handle him, or even that his handling has been proper, considerate and even courteous. Instead, the words "insulting" and "exploitation" have been used many times by refugees to describe their treatment. There was a total disregard for the refugee's need for confidentiality.

That was the reason I resigned in 1984. A copy of my letter of resignation is attached to refresh your memory. This year I found out that the way the League treats the refugees is not much better than the DIA's. Considering the Misinformation Report. Someone dubs it "Model of Misinformation" It printed so many inaccuracies planted there to tear down people's reputation. Why did the League feel the need to drag us into this kind of false accusations?

I wrote the Yurchenko case is similar to the case of the refugees. There are, however, two differences:

- The refugees are not defectors. (only a few are) They are people trying to help the families find out about their missing. Yet the refugees (with live sightings) have been quarantined and treated in the same heavy manner as the Soviet defector.

Remember SC

He fainted in the middle of an eight day interrogation in Washington D.C. in 1982.

- Unlike the Soviet defectors, the refugees being debriefed were not paid any money for their time. The most recent case is that of *sc* who has been interviewed for seven or eight sessions of 5 to 6 hours each in 1984. *sc* has a 14 year old son and like every other refugees, he has to worry about putting a roof on their heads, clothes on their bodies and food in their stomachs. *sc* discontinued after the 8th session because he has been asked to sign a paper acknowledging that either he fabricated the stories or those have been mouthed to him by me. The mouthing was supposed to be done by mail from Maryland to Chimawan Refugee camp in Hongkong, and later to Bataan in the Philippines where he had been debriefed by US officers for over 100 hours before his arrival in the U.S.

*sc* wrote to me a total of 16 letters, including 5 maps. No one can put into the mouth of another person that much information by mail - and do it undetected by JCRC's scrutiny for over eight months of interrogation in the refugee camps.

And again the question is: Why would I fabricate the information and send it to *sc* and tell him to write back to the League in the first place? *sc* was shown serox copies of all the letters I sent him, including a few small checks I sent him with my own money to help him buy toothpaste and stamps etc... Although the paper he was asked to sign was his main reason for discontinuing cooperation, the lack of compensation for his time was a not less important reason.

As I wrote to you earlier, I cannot vouch for *sc* any more than I can for other refugees. The mishandling is not restricted to *sc*. It is a pattern that applies to most cases; the most recent ones are general *NAME* who arrived in the U.S. in the Fall of 1984, *NAME* a Laotian former Congressman living in France, a Frenchman of Vietnamese descent named *N* (not his real name) living in Paris but making frequent business trips to Vietnam, and *NAME* from England.

Another case of DIA mishandling of refugees is my own case. As you well know, FBI investigated me, my mail was opened, I was being charged of being a Communist. (A Vietnamese language newspaper charged that I was a Communist; with the help of a lawyer, I am suing it for libel. DIA charges have leaked to the Vietnamese community and are being used by communist disinformation in this country to discredit me)

Dear George, after the mishandling of *sc* in Paris in 1981, I had wanted to resign, but I reconsidered. I saw that DIA was more interested in finding what motivated the refugees to come forward with the report than with finding out where and if the prisoners were being held or the information about the remains etc. The reason is unknown to me. We were treated like little criminals with countless requests to take lie detector tests etc... I have considered resigning many times. I reconsidered, thinking that I worked for the families, and they did not treat me the way DIA was treating me.

The Misinformation Report proved I was deadly wrong. The reason for my resignation was stated in my letter of resignation. One of the reasons was that each year I heard DIA officials declare to the assembled Families that they were "vigourously pursuing followup investigations with refugees with first hand live sightings, and I knew that could not be true because most of those refugees who contacted the League through me have told me that they have discontinued cooperation with DIA. I knew it to be true because I was often asked by DIA to see if I could persuade them to renew cooperation.

On the subject of the Misinformation Report's mixup of *sc* story with *N*'s story, he deserves a correction. I do too, regarding the false assertion that I was fired. I called the League office a few days after the League Annual Meeting and asked what they planned to do to correct the misplaced charges. *sc* was fishing in New Orleans at that time and was not told of the charges. I asked to talk to Ann, but she referred me to another Staffer who told me that she said she would put a correction in the next newsletter. Ever since, I have not seen any

correction. SC is back in the D.C. area since last month. He is quite unhappy with his being falsely charged and attacked for the wrongdoings of another person. If the charges were made among a small number of people, it probably would not need much correction, but you well know that the charges were printed, SC may be an idiot, but he knows that they call for corrections in the same place and manner they were printed and distributed.

Dear George, we may be stateless, homeless and penniless refugees, but we still have our honor as human beings. We don't want to have our honor trampled upon the way it has been done in that Misinformation Report.

Dear George, I am in this endeavour to help find out about the fate of the missing Americans. I believe you are too. As you well know, I am forwarding the dozens of letters I received to League members and a few recent ones to you. My work will not stop until the last POW comes home.

I think it is terribly unfair to me that the time I devote to helping the missing men and their families should be wasted in this manner. I am not a DIA interviewer, I never lost sight of the main purpose of my POW/MIA efforts, which is to gather information that will help determine the fate of the missing Americans.

But, please George, read the accusations brought against SC and me in the Report. When you are printing and distributing false accusations about people, you are forcing them to reply, or to seek redress.

Sincerely yours  
Le Thi Anh

P.S. You assured me that you followed up with each refugee report. How can I believe it if you failed to notice the mixup between two recent live sighting reports?



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
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17 February 1984

Le Thi Anh

DATA

Dear Anh

I am in receipt of your letter of resignation dated 17 February 1984.

I regret that you feel it is necessary to resign as consultant to the National League of Families.

Since your position with the League was determined by the Board of Directors years back, I will bring your letter to the attention of the Board at our meeting on 2-4 March and ask them to review it in order that they may make the final decision.

I am disturbed about the comment of complaints of the refugees who apparently have been interviewed by, I assume, US Government Agencies. I have heard many rumors of this in the past, but have never had the documentation or evidence needed to bring it to the attention of the proper government officials. If true then this situation deserves an investigation to determine the responsible individuals in order that corrective action can be taken.

In view of this, I would appreciate any comments in writing which you personally can provide to me and any letters or other documents from the refugees themselves who have expressed dissatisfaction with their treatment. I would like to have this information by the time our Board meets. You may mail it to me in care of the League office in Washington.

I would also appreciate more detail on the "serious obstacles to my ability to render service" which you mention as the reason for your resignation.

I will be in touch with you again following our meeting and will let you know the Board's decision.

Respectfully

Earl P. Hopper

Earl P. Hopper  
Colonel, AUS-Ret.  
Chairman of the Board

COLONEL EARL P. HOPPER, SR. AUS (RET.), CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

P.S. I will let you know later when to forward future reports & letters

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